

with regard to rank and pay, he should be placed in the same position as other chaplains. Even this measure of justice was not conceded and beyond affording an opportunity for the ventilation of the Catholic grievance the debate produced little practical result. The grievance is a very long-standing one, and the history of the Government's treatment of this question is a history of broken promises and pledges unfulfilled. Twenty-four years ago a solemn pledge was given on behalf of the Government by the late Mr. W. H. Smith, then First Lord of the Admiralty, that a fleet would never be sent to sea without having at least one Catholic chaplain on board who would be available for the Catholic sailors in any emergency. That pledge was not then, and never has been fulfilled. At the siege of Alexandria, after that promise was given, there was no Catholic priest on board the British squadron though the first three men of the navy killed in the bombardment were Irish Catholics. Again in 1896 the Government gave a further promise to carry out its undertaking in the matter, but it again failed. Last year the bishops of Ireland took the matter up and passed a resolution embodying the following outspoken advice to Catholic parents—'We deem it our duty,' said their Lordships, 'to advise Catholic parents not to allow their children to join his Majesty's ships until suitable arrangements shall be made to minister to the wants of Catholic seamen in the fleet.' It really looks as if attention to this advice is the only means by which this question will ever be fairly settled. There are 15,000 Catholic sailors in the Navy, and if their places were left unfilled as they became vacant there can be little doubt, as the Dublin *Freeman* remarks, that Catholics would soon receive justice in this matter.

'STUFFING' THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

TIMARU.

THE following are the particulars regarding the salaries or wages and religious beliefs of the employees of the Railway Department in and around Timaru:—

Grade.	Salary.	Religion.
Stationmaster	£250 per annum	non-Catholic
Clerk	£210 "	"
"	£150 "	"
"	£140 "	"
"	£140 "	Catholic
"	£120 "	non-Catholic
Cadet	£110 "	"
"	£60 "	"
"	£60 "	"
"	£60 "	"
"	£50 "	"
"	£40 "	"
"	£30 "	"
"	£30 "	"
Storeman	8s per day	"
"	7s "	"
Goods Foreman	£160 per annum	Catholic
"	£160 "	"
Shunter	8s per day	non-Catholic
"	7s 6d "	"
"	7s 6d "	"
"	7s "	"
Porter	5s 6d "	"
"	6s 6d "	Catholic
"	6s 6d "	non-Catholic
"	5s "	"
"	3s 6d "	"
"	6s 6d "	"
Guard	10s "	"
"	10s "	"
Acting-Guard	8s 6d "	"
Guard	8s 6d "	"
Porter	7s 6d "	"
Crane driver	8s "	"
Laborer	6s 6d "	"
Crossing-keeper	6s "	"
Night watchman	£2 2s per week	"
Shed foreman	£210 per annum	"
Turner	10s per day	"
Driver	12s "	"
"	12s "	non-Catholic
"	12s "	"
"	11s 6d "	"
"	11s 6d "	"
"	11s "	"
"	11s "	"

Fireman	9s per day	non-Catholic
"	8s 6d "	"
"	8s 6d "	"
"	7s 6d "	"
"	8s "	"
"	7s 6d "	Catholic
Acting do & cleaner	4s 6d "	non-Catholic
Cleaner	4s "	"
"	4s 6d "	"
"	4s 6d "	"
"	4s "	"
"	3s "	"
"	3s 6d "	"
"	3s 6d "	"
"	3s 6d "	"
Coalman	6s 6d "	Catholic
Apprentice fitter	1s "	non-Catholic
Ganger	8s per day	Catholic
"	8s "	non-Catholic
"	9s "	"
Platelayer	6s 6d "	Catholic
"	7s "	non-Catholic
"	6s 6d "	"
"	6s 6d "	"
"	6s 6d "	"
Horsedriver	8s "	Catholic
Lead'g b'dgecarpenter	11s "	non-Catholic
Bridgeman	7s "	"
Bridge carpenter	9s "	"
Bridgeman	—	Catholic
Laborer	6s 6d "	"
Train examiner	8s "	non-Catholic
Bridge inspector	£190 per annum	"
Inspector per. way	£235 "	"
Carpenter	9s 6d per day	"
"	10s "	Catholic
"	11s "	non-Catholic
Apprentice carpenter	1s "	Catholic
"	1s "	non-Catholic
Plumber	9s 6d "	"
Blacksmith	10s "	"
Striker	7s "	"
Painter	9s "	"

Out of the 89 employees of the Railway Department in the above district 13 are Catholics, or about 1 in seven. Of these 10 are wages men, their pay varying from 1s to 10s per day. As this is one of the departments of the Government service where it is alleged that Catholics are unduly favored, the statistics for the district show the recklessness of such assertions.

The State of Ireland.

AN ounce of fact is worth a ton of fiction, especially the fiction regarding the state of Ireland which is cabled out to the colonies from London. The statement made some time ago by Mr. J. Redmond that there was less crime in Ireland than in any other part of the United Kingdom, as proved by Government statistics, received confirmation from Mr. T. W. Russell, in a speech delivered in the House of Commons in the early part of March. Mr. Russell, it must be remembered, is neither a Nationalist nor an Irishman; he is a strong Unionist, a staunch Presbyterian, and a cool-headed Scotchman, so that his remarks cannot be discounted on the score of political or religious bias: For the fourth time in 40 years (said Mr. Russell) we find the old familiar facts, the horse going round and round in the barn mill, and never getting one step further forward. Trouble sprang from the land. That was the first thing. Then a League was formed. Men addressed public meetings; they were sent to gaol; public feeling was embittered. He regretted the absence of the Chief Secretary and also its cause, but he asked the question, was that method of governing Ireland to go on for ever? Was there no way out? Was that the best that English Government could do for that unhappy land? That was his question? In his opinion there was a way out—a perfectly straight and safe way out—and it was because he believed that from the bottom of his heart that he ventured to occupy the time of the House. The figures had been read out that night as to the agrarian crime. There had not been such

A Clean Calendar for Fifty Years

with regard to agrarian crime. Had the Executive Government to deal with ordinary crime? There was more crime in one English county in a week than there was in the whole of Ireland in a year. The Executive Government had to deal with an absolutely crimeless country. That was the first fact. His own attitude was that of a man who had seen during 40 years in Ireland four serious upheavals of Irish Society. The trouble and every bit of disorder by which the Executive Government of Ireland was confronted sprang truly and literally from the ground, from the bogs out of which those hundreds and thousands of people were vainly endeavoring, day in and day out, to extract what was called a living. That was the source of all the trouble, and there was no